

other than are the former to the Auks; in fact, so far as the skeleton goes, the Loons are ten times more nearly related to the Grebes than they are to any other group. Dr. Shufeldt would arrange the Grebes, Loons, and Auks in two 'suborders,' as follows: (1) Pygopodes, with two superfamilies — (a) Podicipedes, containing the Grebes, and (b) Cepphi, for the Loons; (2) Alcæ, with the following four families — Fraterculidæ, Phalaridæ, Alcidæ, and Allidæ. *Uria* is the Alcadinæ form most nearly allied to the Gulls.

The Sheathbills (*Chionis*) are considered as forming one of the links between the Gulls and Plovers, having, however, their nearest living allies in *Hæmatopus* and *Glaucola*, though also retaining characters remotely allying them with the Columbo-gallinaceous group. — J. A. A.

**Shufeldt on the Osteology and Classification of the North American Pigeons, Woodpeckers, and Kites.** — In recent papers Dr. Shufeldt has discussed the classification of Pigeons, Kites, and Woodpeckers, from the standpoint of their osteological structure. The North American Pigeons\* he considers as constituting two subfamilies, Columbinæ, containing all of the genera except *Starnænas*, and Starnænadinæ, consisting of the single genus *Starnænas*.

The North American Kites † he refers to a family Milvidæ, with four subfamilies — Ictiniinæ, Elanoidinæ, Elaninæ, and Rostrhaminæ, the latter adopted provisionally, the osteology of this form not having been examined. Our Kites are found to differ "most markedly among themselves" in their osteological characters. *Elanoides* is found to share important skeletal characters with so distantly related a form as *Pandion*.

The Woodpeckers ‡ are considered primarily in reference to their alleged saurognathism, of which he finds little evidence, to which is added a 'Summary of the Chief Osteological Characters of the North American Pici.' The Woodpeckers are held, in accordance with the views of most recent writers, to be a group coördinate in value with the Pigeons or the Parrots, and that they are more nearly allied to the Passeres "than to any other existing suborder of birds." — J. A. A.

**Ridgway on New or Little-known Central American and South American Birds.** — Mr. Ridgway has recently described a new Whippoorwill from Costa Rica§ under the name *Antrostomus rufomaculatus*, resembling *A. vociferus* in size and proportions, but more similar in coloration to

\*On the Comparative Osteology of the United States Columbidae. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1891, pp. 194-196. (2) Notes on the Classification of the Pigeons. Am. Nat., Feb. 1891, pp. 157, 158.

†Some Comparative Osteological Notes on the North American Kites. The Ibis April, 1891, pp. 228-232.

‡On the Question of Saurognathism of the Pici, and other Osteological Notes upon that Group. Proc. Zool. Soc., 1891, pp. 122-129.

§Description of a New Species of Whippoorwill from Costa Rica. By R. Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIV, 1891, pp. 465, 466.